



The Pipeline

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Patton Announces Spending Plan

Governor Paul Patton announced an \$18 billion spending plan on June 26 that he will implement in absence of a state budget. The spending plan will continue key services like law enforcement, child support, and education.



Patton will operate state government by executive order using a detailed spending plan that mirrors the budget he offered the legislature during the 2002 General Assembly. When lawmakers failed to pass a budget for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, Patton developed a spending plan to keep state government operating.

"It's time to ensure that we move forward as a state. As Governor, I am committed to keep state government operating smoothly so that we can continue our focus on the more important issues of quality jobs and quality education," Patton said. "What's important to the citizens is the future economic prosperity of our state -- people don't want to hear any more about the partisan bickering that has led us to this impasse."

Patton's legal team advised him that he has the broad authority as Governor to operate state government when the General Assembly fails to enact a budget. The Office of the State Budget Director performed a detailed analysis to determine the specific provisions of the Legislature's budget bill -- House Bill 1 -- that could be incorporated into the Governor's spending plan, and those elements that could not be included.

"The governor cannot step into the role of the General Assembly so the plan I implement today will not include everything that a budget would include," Patton said. "Most notable are

tax changes, bond issues, and certain language provisions. My actions today, however, will ensure that the vital services of state government will continue to be delivered."

The Governor's office involved Treasurer Jonathan Miller and Attorney General Ben Chandler in developing the spending plan. Patton expects that Miller will seek clarification from the courts concerning legal questions about Patton's spending plan and the executive order to implement it.

Secretary Briefs Staff on Budget Impasse, Cost-cutting Steps

By Lisa Wallace

With Kentucky facing a new fiscal year without a legislatively enacted budget, questions, concerns, rumors and speculation abound throughout state government.



Keeping her promise to inform Cabinet for Families and Children staff of budget issues, CFC Secretary Viola Miller met with Quality Central staff June 26 to offer the latest information on the state's fiscal situation and to announce cost-saving measures affecting CFC employees. The session was sponsored by Quality Central Connections.

Miller said the lack of a budget is unprecedented in Kentucky's history and the situation is not addressed in the state constitution. Lacking constitutional guidance and substantial legal precedents, Gov. Paul Patton has been meeting with his cabinet, staff and legal experts to craft a plan to allow state government to continue to operate after the current budget expires June 30.

Miller said the governor will enact a spending plan by executive order effective July 1 to keep state

government running until the General Assembly adopts a budget. The spending plan will include key features of the budget bill adopted by the House and Senate during the regular legislative session. Among those features is a 2.7 percent pay raise for state workers.

Miller said the state constitution empowers the governor to act as the state's chief magistrate, in which capacity he must provide for citizens' health, safety and welfare. The governor contends that, to fulfill this constitutional duty, he must be able to access and spend state funds.

"We are confident the governor is on sound legal ground," Miller said. "Some of the best legal minds around are working on the issue and advising the governor on every detail of every decision."

The absence of a budget has an impact beyond purely fiscal matters, Miller said. Every budget contains special provisions which override other laws.

For instance, law mandates that the state workforce cannot exceed 33,000 employees and that state workers are to receive a 5 percent annual raise. The budget has traditionally included a clause allowing the state to exceed the workforce cap.

Without a legislatively adopted budget, the governor's authority to override state law could be challenged in the courts. But Miller said she doesn't expect employee advocacy groups to challenge the governor's spending plan because they know the dire consequences strict enforcement could have on their constituents and all beneficiaries of state services.

Secretary Miller said existing contracts should remain in force and simple contract extensions and renewals will generally be permitted, although few if any new contracts are expected to be let until authorized in a budget. She said there is no reason to believe the state contract oversight committee will reject reauthorization of cabinet contracts.

Teresa Suter, executive director of the cabinet's Office of Human Resources Management, announced that employee tuition assistance will be reduced as a cost-saving measure.

Employees currently enrolled in the Certified Public Manager program may continue to attend classes, but there will be no further reimbursements for their travel-related costs. Staff in the service regions will be affected by this policy more than those who live in and near Frankfort, where most classes are taught.

Miller said most out-of-state travel has been put on hold unless it is related to federal funding of vital cabinet programs. When staff leave the cabinet, they are likely, in the short term, to be replaced only if their jobs involve direct service delivery, she said.

Each of these cost-containment measures will be re-evaluated on Sept. 1. Miller said everyone is hopeful that the state revenue picture will improve and that the legislature will enact a budget soon.

She renewed her pledge to keep CFC staff informed of budget developments.

"We're all in this together," Miller said. "Anything I know, you'll know. For the present, we will continue to focus on maintaining the quality of services for those we are responsible for serving."

She urged staff to contact leadership with questions and concerns and warned against trusting information from less-than-credible sources.

"If you hear rumors that sound nuts, they probably are," Miller said. "Rather than repeat them, ask."

Staff Can Revisit EAL Skill Building

By Anya Armes Weber

Ongoing Everyone a Leader skill-building sessions are available for new employees and for those who just want to brush up on a certain technique.

Offices that have seen significant turnover since finishing EAL might want to retake the sessions as a natural team. Sessions have been retooled to be more relevant to Quality Central staff.

Sessions are scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month.

Morning sessions are as follows:

Set 1 – Basic Principles
Set 3 – DISC and Conflict Resolution
Set 5 – Problem Solving/Decision Making and Team Development

Afternoon sessions are as follows:

Set 2 – Ladder of Inference, Dialogue Model and Left-Hand Column
Set 4 – Meeting Management and Brainstorming
Sets 6/7 – Social Oppression and Understanding Your Customer

Each set's facilitator and coaches will schedule start times and locations.

Ask your office's EAL contact to sign you up for a set. The EAL scheduling coaches for the sessions are as follows:

Set 1: Linda Satterly
Set 2: Michelle Harrod
Set 3: Debbie Yeary
Set 4: Debbie Yeary
Set 5: Millie Higgins
Sets 6/7: Lee Ann May

QCC Needs Used Books for Sale

By Anya Armes Weber

Quality Central Connections (QCC) is raising money for its employee recognition and information projects.



QCC will have a used book sale from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Thursday, July 11, in the CHR lobby.

If you have used books you'd like to donate, please contact Bonnie Cox, Dean Crawford or Bobbie Walters.

Foster Parents Honored for Extraordinary Service

By Lisa Wallace



They come from all walks of life: nurses, teachers, mechanics, ministers, stay-at-home moms and dads, widows and single men and women. And they choose to share their gifts, their homes and their hearts with children in crisis. Foster caregivers provide safe, healthful homes for kids experiencing turmoil and instability in their own homes.

A Jefferson County couple and a Breckinridge County woman have received Lifetime of Service Awards in recognition of 35 years as foster caregivers. At a May 17 award ceremony in Frankfort, Excellence in Service Awards were also presented to couples or individuals who provide foster care in each of the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children's 16 service regions.

"Not everyone realizes how special you are, but I do," Kentucky first lady Judi Patton told the award recipients. Cabinet Secretary Viola Miller told them a new reality is taking shape as foster homes convert to adoptive homes. Foster home adoptions account for more than 85 percent of all adoptions in Kentucky, and that means the pool of foster care providers must be continually replenished, she said. Miller said foster care in Kentucky is expanding to include more older, non-English speaking or severely disabled children and children suffering profound emotional, physical and psychological problems.

"We have to be constantly thinking about and taking action to address foster care needs that are far more challenging than anything we've encountered before," she said.

Lifetime of Service Awards honoring 35 years of service to children as foster parents were presented to Rollan and Wanda Ashley, KIPDA Jefferson Region and Marie McCurry, Lincoln Trail Region

Excellence in Service Awards were presented to:

Kurt and Debbie Hagglund, Barren River Region; Jerry and Stephanie Castle, Big Sandy Region; Dwayne and Barbara Hausley, Bluegrass Fayette Region; Maudie Neeley, Bluegrass Rural Region; Donald and Glenna Vanover, Cumberland Valley; John and Jamie Smith, FIVCO Region; Patricia and Roland Williams, Gateway/Buffalo Trace Region; Tim and Robin Taylor, Green River Region; John and Ruth Noble, Kentucky River Region; Robert Tinker, KIPDA Jefferson Region; Dale and Brenda Onyon, Lake Cumberland; Rick and Beverly Hilger, KIPDA Rural Region; Charles and Kay Upton, Lincoln Trail Region; Deborah and Gerald Smith, Northern Kentucky Region; Sheldon and Carol Elitzer, Pennyryle Region and Kenny and Holly Bray, Purchase Region.

CFC Raises \$10,000 for March of Dimes

By Kate Fox

The Cabinet for Families and Children raised over \$10,000 for the March of Dimes this year thanks to the efforts of first-year coordinator Michele Harrod from the Division of Policy Development.

Harrod and other volunteers took part in several fund-raising activities to raise money for the March of Dimes. However, the biggest moneymaker was the result of a slight mix-up. When Harrod sent out an e-mail message to Quality Central employees promoting the sale of cabinet T-shirts for the March of Dimes, she used the wrong distribution list. Her message went out to all field workers as well as QC. Twice as many people received the message as she had originally intended.

"By the next day I was getting hundreds of e-mails from people who wanted the shirts," Harrod said. "By the time I ran out of shirts, 526 had been sold, more than any other year."

Shirt sales alone raised nearly \$4,000 for the March of Dimes. "The number of e-mails I received was staggering," Harrod said. "If I had only known, I would have ordered more T-shirts. I'm proud of the amount of money we raised."

The Cabinet also participated in other fund-raising activities. Volunteers sold candles, organized a Mexican Fiesta in the cafeteria, and held a book sale. Fifty people from CFC participated in the annual March of Dimes Walk.

Because of Harrod's outstanding efforts this year, the Cabinet surpassed its goal of \$7,500. At the March of Dimes Banquet, CFC won the first-place award for Most Team Spirit. Harrod's group also took first place in the T-shirt contest, thanks in part to the misdirected e-mail. The Cabinet raised \$10,058 and placed second in overall money collected.

When President Franklin Roosevelt created the March of Dimes in 1938, it was intended to save America's youth from polio. Thanks to their efforts, a vaccination was developed and polio is no longer a health risk for babies.

In the 64 years that the March of Dimes has existed, millions of babies have been saved and millions of dollars have been provided. In 2000 alone, the March raised \$36.1 million to fund research on infant mortality and illness.

Today the March of Dimes fights against premature births, low birth weight and birth defects. Each year volunteers, researchers and educators work together to make sure that every baby born is a healthy one. The March of Dimes foundation also works with expectant and new mothers to ensure that their babies are receiving the best care possible.

Retirement Reception

There will be a retirement reception in honor of Earl Downey, CFC Purchasing Branch, on July 30 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. in the CHR cafeteria. Earl is retiring with a whopping 36 years of service!

